

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236813

EXCON

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: COCOM TOLL ENRICHMENT PROCEDURES

REFS: A. OECD PARIS 30518

B. OECD PARIS 28741

1. GERMAN COUNTERPROPOSAL. USG FINDS GERMAN COUNTERPROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE. TAILS ASSAY OF UP TO 0.25 PERCENT URANIUM 235 STILL CONTAINS SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF U-235 FOR EXAMPLE, FIRST GERMAN EXCEPTION CASE FOR TOLL ENRICHMENT IN USSR WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN APPROXIMATELY 500,000 KILOGRAMS OF DEPLETED URANIUM (TAILS) WITH AN ASSAY OF ABOUT 0.25 PERCENT. IF THE OPERATING TAILS ASSAY OF THE USSR PLANT WERE REDUCED TO 0.15 PERCENT, THE 0.25 PERCENT URANIUM TAILS RESULTING FROM THE GERMAN TRANSACTION COULD HAVE PRODUCED APPROXIMATELY 400 KILOGRAMS OF 93 PERCENT ENRICHED U-235, A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FISSILE MATERIAL. FURTHERMORE, OPERATING GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANTS WITH LESS THAN 0.25 PERCENT TAILS ASSAY IS NOT UNKNOWN. UNTIL 1971, ALL US PLANTS OPERATED AT 0.2 PERCENT TAILS ASSAY. USG CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT
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DEPLETED URANIUM IS A SOURCE MATERIAL OF U-235 AND WAS

EMBARGOED FOR THAT REASON AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED TO MINIMIZE THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MATERIAL.

2. US PROBLEM ON DEPLETED URANIUM. USG DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO CIRCULATE PROPOSALS ON EXPORTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM FOR NON-NUCLEAR USES UNTIL NEXT YEAR PRIOR TO LIST REVIEW. PROPOSALS US HAS IN MIND, AS NOTED IN PARA 3, STATE 194127, HAS NOT BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED OR CLEARED FOR COCOM CONSIDERATION. THE MOST WE CAN SAY AT THIS TIME IS THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTIONS TREATMENT IN SUB-ITEM (C) OF AN TO EXCLUSIVE TREATMENT AND ADDING POSSIBLY OTHER COMMODITIES MADE FROM DEPLETED URANIUM WHICH WOULD ALSO BE EXCLUDED FROM EMBARGO. NOTHING IS BEING CONSIDERED WHICH WOULD RESOLVE FRENCH PROBLEM CONCERNING EXPORTING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF DEPLETED URANIUM TO THE BLOC WITHOUT COMMITTEE APPROVAL. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: elyme
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